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DE VET MON DROIT

(27)

At the Court at *Whitehall* the Third
of *October*, 1676.

Present

The Kings most Excellent Majesty

His Highness Prince *Earl of Craven*
Rupert *Earl of Carbery*
Lord Chancellor *Viscount Fauconberg*
Lord Treasurer *Viscount Newport*
Duke of Monmouth *Lord Bishop of London*
Duke of Lauderdale *Mr. Secretary Coventry*
Earl of Ossery *Mr. Secretary Williamson*
Earl of Sunderland *Mr. Chancellor of the*
Earl of Peterborough *Exchequer*
Earl of Bath *Master of the Ordnance.*



Whereas *His Majesty* and this
Board are informed of the
bold and open repare made
to several places, and espe-
cially to her *Majesties Chap-*
pel at *Somerfet House*, and the
houses of *Foreign Ambassa-*
dors, *Agents*, and other publick *Offices*,
for the hearing of *Mass*, and other worship

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and

and Service of the Romish Church; and that the said Ambassadors, Agents, and Ministers, do permit and suffer both daily Masses to be said, and other solemn and Service to be performed in their Houses, in a publick manner, by English, Scotch, and Irish Priests, and also Sermons in English to be preached in their said Houses and Chapels, which the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom do expressly forbid his Subjects to frequent or do; His Majesty taking the same into serious Consideration, and being sensible thereof, as a matter highly tending to the Violation of the Laws of the Realm, and the scandal of Religion and Government, and breach of good Order, and in his Princely Wisdom weighing the dangerous Consequence thereof, is Resolved to take strict Order for the stopping this Evil before it spread any further.

His Majesty therefore, by the Advice of his Council, hath hereby forbid any of his said Subjects hereafter to offend in the like kind, at their utmost perils; And straitly Commands, That no others presume to Resort to her Majesties Chappel, but such as are her Majesties Domestick Servants. And to the end this Provision and Order may be the more effectual, his Majesty doth Command, That as much as concerneth the resort to the Houses of foreign Ambassadors, Agents and Ministers, at the time of Mass, or other Romish Worship or Service, some Messengers of the Chamber, or other Officers or persons for that Service, be appointed to watch at the several passages to their Houses, and without entring into the

the said houses, or invading the freedom and Priviledges belonging unto them, vnder the such persons as go thither at such times, without stopping or Questioning any as they go thither, but at their coming from thence, they are to Apprehend and bring the said persons to the Ward, and such as they cannot Apprehend, to bring their Names. And that the Ambassadors and other Foreign Ministers may have no cause to Complain for this proceeding, as if there were any Intention to wrong or disrespect them, his Majesty doth likewise Order, for the preventing of any such mistaking and sinister interpretation, That his principal Secretaries of State (according unto his Majesties express Commands now given unto them) should be hereby authorised and required forthwith to repair to the said Ambassadors, Agents, and other Foreign Ministers, to make known unto them his Majesties Pleasure concerning the same; And that as his Majesty is careful not to have any the just Priviledges and Immunities of the said Ambassadors, Agents, or Ministers, to be in any degree infringed or violated, so in the aforesaid Particulars of permitting Masses or other Service to be said by any of the said Priests, or Sermons to be preached in English in their houses or Chappels (things never heard of or attempted by any precedent Ambassadors or Agents here) or in suffering his Subjects to resort unto them, his Majesty is no less careful of preserving his Laws, and containing his Subjects in their due obedience

ence to the same; and both therefore expect the said Ambassadors, Agents, and Ministers compliance accordingly. And hereof his Majesty thinks fit that Notice should be first given to the said Publick Ministers (the rather to testify his Respects unto them) before the Secret Court his Majesty hath Resolved, be taken with his own Subjects, by a Vigorous Prosecution, and infliction of Penalties and Punishments for the preventing and repressing the like hereafter.

And it is likewise Ordered, That the Messengers of the Chamber, or others to be employed in the Service before specified, shall be appointed, and receive their Charge from the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Bishop of London, and the said Secretaries, or some of them, who are to take special care to see this put in due and effectual Execution.

EDW. WALKER.

LONDON,

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His Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1676.